

Support Boat

Is your support boat ready to go?

Licence & Registration

All support craft and tenders must have a valid licence and registration. The support vessel needs to make allowances for people and watercraft; it is recommended to be 5-10 metres in length. Vessels of 10m and over are advised to stay south of the channel and main fleet. Tenders should be 3.1 metres or less in size with a motor not exceeding 5hp; anything over that size is required to be registered.

Propeller guard

Port to Pub recommends that all vessels have propeller guards installed.

Boat occupancy

Refer to DoT requirements on boat size and occupants or your Boat Builder's Plate to determine how many people are legally permitted on board. Your boat must be licensed to carry your whole team (e.g., skipper, swimmer/s, paddler/s, spotter, and/or other support crew).

Safety equipment

Support boats must be equipped with mandatory marine safety and emergency equipment as per the WA Navigable Water regulations.



Support Boat Checklist

- Recreational Skipper's Ticket (RST)**
Skippers must hold and be in possession of their current Recreational Skipper's Ticket; the ticket must be in their own name and issued within the last 12 months
- Boat registration or Australian Builders Plate (ABP)**
Skippers must be able to provide evidence that the support boat is registered and that registration is current; it is an offence to use or have a vessel in any navigable waters without a current registration
- VHF radio**
On Channel 74 for the duration of the event (go to Channel 16 for emergencies)
- Race number**
Clearly displayed
- Safety equipment**
All safety equipment is accessible on board (see safety equipment lists)
- Medication**
Notify support crew of all medical needs; take seasickness medicine before the start line
- Towels**
Towels get progressively wet and heavy, so pack a chamois or microfibre/absorbent towel as well as a big, warm jacket for use after each rotation; solo swimmers should have towels, emergency blankets, and warm clothes on the boat
- Food and drink**
Pack plenty for swimmers and crew; a food plan for each swimmer should be written out for the crew to follow; food for swimmers should be labelled clearly
- Easily identifiable object**
(e.g., flag, light, hat) on boat for paddlers and swimmers to locate boat; note that solo swimmers will have limited sunlight to see
- Stop watch**
A watch that measures stroke rate is ideal but not necessary; one support crew member should be in charge of swimmer food stop timings
- Stingose/ice packs/antihistamines**
Especially if you are prone to reactions from stingers
- Port to Pub competitor handbook**
On board for reference as needed
- Boat number stickers**
- Binoculars**
- First aid kit**
- Change of clothes**
For all swimmers and crew at the finish celebrations
- Tie downs**
For skis when returning to the mainland